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February 1988

Railway Age

...for the new age of railways and rail transit

For FEC, train control that's automatic

Light Rail Planner's Guide

CSX consolidates signal equipment repairs

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Features

LIGHT RAIL PLANNER'S GUIDE

Transit's viable alternative LR3

How planners can profit from the experience of cities that have already taken the light rail route is the subject of a probing essay by William D. Middleton.

Who's who in light rail transit LR14

A directory of consultants, suppliers, and other companies that stand ready to help planners bring light rail from concept to reality.

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Florida East Coast's freight-only Jacksonville-Miami line will be equipped with an automatic train control system being devised by FEC and its equipment supplier, Harmon.

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Market Outlook

Equipment

Bombardier: Will become the majority shareholder in the Belgian company, Constructions Ferroviaires et Metalliques BN, with acquisition of the 30% interest currently held by the Societe General de Belgique. Bombardier acquired 45% of BN's capital stock in 1986. BN is a leading European manufacturer of rolling stock.

Trailer Train: Ordered 500 Impack intermodal platforms from Bethlehem Steel's Freight Car Division for delivery in this year's second quarter. Delivery of an earlier order for 500 Impack platforms will be completed by Bethlehem in the first quarter. The Impack is a patented design of Itel Rail Corp. The platforms are joined in five-unit segments to haul trailers ranging in length from 28 to 48 feet.

Facilities

PATH: Awarded a $6.7-million contract to the Bellezza Co., Inc., South Kearny, N.J., for construction of a new electrical substation in Jersey City. In a separate project, PATH will purchase two ventilation fan units for the Exchange Place station in Jersey City from TLT-Babcock, Inc., of Akron, Ohio, for $1,050,000.

Los Angeles County Transportation Commission: Awarded a $3.6-million contract to Harris Corp. for a supervisory control and data acquisition system for the 21.2-mile light rail line LACTC is building between downtown Los Angeles and Long Beach. The M9200 system will incorporate two Harris H800 computers and include four dual-monitor workstations, three single-monitor workstations, a rear projection statusboard, and 24 remote terminal units. Advanced software applications will include data base management, network communications, man-machine interface, report generation, train tracking and identification, and gate monitoring.

New York City Transit Authority: Awarded a $177-million contract to Perini/Tutor-Saliba/Buckley, a joint venture, for rehabilitation of the Lexington-4th Avenue line between Borough Hall station, Brooklyn, and 161st Street station in the Bronx. Work is to begin immediately and is to be completed by June 1991.

Revenue freight carloadings

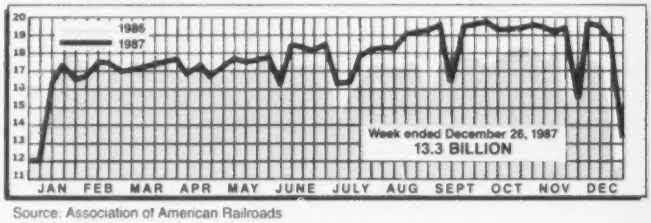
Commodity	1987 52 weeks	1986 52 weeks	% change
Grain	1,505,206	1,268,347	18.7
Other farm products	203,375	192,667	5.6
Metallic ores	846,153	797,839	6.1
Coal	5,810,862	5,725,272	1.5
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	745,962	678,154	10.0
Nonmetallic minerals	489,677	475,503	3.0
Grain mill products	565,386	546,314	3.5
Food and kindred products	567,210	562,984	0.8
Primary forest products	543,681	535,041	1.6
Lumber and wood products except furniture	418,740	396,990	5.5
Pulp, paper and allied products	646,724	654,785	(1.2)
Chemicals and allied products	1,369,714	1,273,042	7.6
Petroleum products	249,500	240,649	3.7
Stone, clay and glass products	539,234	510,415	5.6
Coke	260,174	218,357	19.2
Metals and products	472,378	414,616	13.9
Motor vehicles and equipment	980,383	1,037,611	(5.8)
Waste and scrap materials	451,843	412,775	9.5
Forwarder and shipper assn. traffic	142,842	197,853	(38.5)
All other carloads	3,997,665	3,627,914	10.2
LCL traffic	4,849	6,023	(24.2)
Total Cars Loaded	**20,811,558**	**19,783,151**	
% change from previous year	5.2	1.9	
Estimated revenue ton-miles (billions)	941.3	874.5	
% change from previous year	7.6	(0.3)	

Piggyback loadings

	1987 52 weeks	1986 52 weeks	1985 52 weeks
Trailers/containers	5,155,737	5,006,157	4,590,952
% change from previous year	3.0	9.0	0.6

Rail freight traffic trends

Billion ton-miles (Estimated)



Source: Association of American Railroads

Freight cars

	DELIVERED 4th quarter 1987	DELIVERED 4th quarter 1986	ORDERED 4th quarter 1987	ORDERED 4th quarter 1986	ON ORDER AND UNDELIVERED January 1 1988	ON ORDER AND UNDELIVERED January 1 1987
Built new by carbuilders	3,552	3,972	5,077	2,985	6,736	2,677
Rebuilt	27	20	27	20	0	0
TOTAL	**3,579**	**3,992**	**5,104**	**3,005**	**6,736**	**2,677**
Locomotives (new and rebuilt)	75	56	N/A	N/A	35	3

Source: Transportation Div., AAR and American Railway Car Institute